

**From:** Carol Bourgeois  
**To:** Microsoft Settlement  
**Date:** 1/15/02 5:06pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

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January 15, 2002

Microsoft Settlement  
U.S. Department of Justice-Antitrust Division  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Microsoft Settlement:

The Microsoft trial spent taxpayers' dollars wisely while creating cutting edge case law to govern the high tech industry. To place the burden of such a litigation onto smaller companies would have been a serious deterrent to investors in the high-tech industry. It is high time for this trial to be over, however, patience is a virtue, often forgotten in litigation.

Consumers will indeed see competition in the marketplace, guided by new and applicable interpretations of our precedential law, rather than flailing about in the courtroom, reinventing the wheel. And the consumers who propel our economy can finally breathe a sigh of relief, with some reassurance that the expensive hunk of plastic on their desks will continue to function, however imperfectly.

Upwards of 60% of Americans thought the federal government should not have broken up Microsoft. Of course, most of those Americans had absolutely no idea how much the Microsoft litigation benefitted them in terms of establishing the ground rules under which E-Commerce is conducted.

Once the case is finally over, high tech companies can get into the business of innovating and creating better products for consumers, and not wasting valuable resources on litigation with the 3000 pound gorilla that is Microsoft.

True competition means creating better goods and offering superior services to consumers. Microsoft can serve by example.

Should our current government consider getting out of the business of stifling product litigation and tying the hands of consumers in pursuing

their options- (ahem, "tort reform") American consumers will once again pick the winners and losers on Wall Street.

With the benefits of the Microsoft litigation; a usable body of precedential law, the high-tech industry, more entrepreneurs will be encouraged to return to creating new and competitive products and technologies like they did in the Clinton administration, rather than hoping they can buy access and favors. (Like Enron?)

Thank you for this opportunity to share my views.

Sincerely,

Carol Bourgeois